Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2011

**REMARKS** 

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1 and 4-9 will remain pending in the

above-identified application, with claims 1 and 7-9 standing ready for further action on the

merits, and remaining claim 4-6 being withdrawn from consideration based on an earlier

restriction requirement of the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the features of the present invention based

on the disclosures at page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 12 of the specification and Figs. 3(a) and

3(b). New claim 9 is added based on the disclosures at page 8, line 23 to page 9, lines 3 and

page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 12 of the specification and Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) so as to further

clarify the features of the present invention with process limitations, which result in the structural

features of the present invention.

Accordingly, the present amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the

application as originally filed. As such entry of the instant amendment and favorable action on

the merits are earnestly solicited at present.

Abstract of the Disclosure

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract contains two paragraphs.

The objection is respectfully traversed.

The Abstract has been amended in a fashion that is submitted to obviate and overcome

the present objection (i.e., rewritten into one paragraph). Accordingly, reconsideration and

withdrawal of the outstanding objection are respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Jordan US '267 (US 5,779,267) in view of Koyama JP '472 (JP 2001-171472). This rejection is

respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested based

on following consideration.

Advantages obtained by amended claim 1

In view of the amendment to the claims, the present invention is further distinguished

over the cited references.

As recited in claim 1, in the present invention, the thickness of the coating layer at the

intersecting parts is thicker than the remaining portion of the single metal wire (see also Fig.

3(b)). For example, the claimed filer is obtained by subjecting the claimed single metal wire,

which has been wound into a tubular shape, to a heat treatment. In the heat treatment, the copper

is melted then solidified so as to fix the intersecting parts of the single wire. Since wettability of

melt copper to iron (i.e., core wire) is relatively low, the molten copper concentrates onto a

location where liquid easily centers or concentrates, such as the intersecting parts of the

invention, because of surface tension. Consequently, the claimed unique structure is formed (see

also new claim 9). With the claimed filter for a gas generator, the flow passage for gas, which is

generated by activation of the gas generator, can be secured, and scattering of the copper coating,

which can be caused by a high temperature and a high pressure of the gas, can be effectively

prevented.

Jordan US '267 merely discloses that the surfaces of the core wire are entirely coated for

protection of the core wire. Jordan US '267 discloses or suggests neither the claimed unique

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structures nor a method to attain such structures of the present invention. Further, Jordan US

'267 fails to disclose or suggest the advantageous properties of the present invention.

Similarly, the secondary reference Koyama JP '472 also fails to disclose or suggest the

claimed structural features of the present invention.

Therefore, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be established based on the

combination of Jordan US '267 and Koyama JP '472. Likewise, there is no rationale and/or

reasonable expectation of success based on the combination of the cited references, by which one

skilled in the art could arrive at the present invention as claimed, since the cited references fail to

disclose or suggest that the copper-coated wire is firmly fixed at intersecting parts by the thicker

layer of the copper.

Based on the foregoing considerations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner

withdraw the rejection.

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**CONCLUSION** 

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully

requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims is

allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present

application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Reg. No. 68,859

at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to

expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees required during the

pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

No. 02-2448.

NOV 1 0 2011 Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Gorenstein

Registration No.: 29271

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Attachment: Clean copy of the amended Abstract